



Veterans
Administration

Women Are Veterans, too!



You may be eligible for veterans benefits if you:

- Are a veteran of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.
- Served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942-43.
- Flew as a Women's Airforces Service Pilot (WASP) in World War II.
- Were a telephone operator, clerk, dietitian or reconstruction aide with the Army in Europe during World War I.





Women,

like men who served in the military services, can be potentially eligible for a variety of veterans benefits:

Medical Care.

A full range of health care services are available at VA medical facilities, to eligible women veterans. A law recently passed by Congress made several changes in a veteran's eligibility for VA health care. The intent of the law is to ensure that VA hospital care is provided to service-connected veterans and to lower-income veterans. Those veterans with higher incomes will be provided VA health care on a space-available basis and may be charged a deductible for their care based on their income.





The law established three categories — A, B, and C — for VA hospital, nursing home and outpatient care. The eligibility assessment applies to all nonservice-connected veterans regardless of age, except for the following groups: former prisoners of war, veterans exposed to certain herbicides while serving in Vietnam and to ionizing radiation in connection with atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons and in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who require treatment of a condition that may be related to such exposure, veterans receiving a VA pension, veterans of WWI, the Spanish-American War and the Mexican Border period, and veterans eligible for Medicaid. Recent accommodations to the needs of women veterans include increased privacy and improved gynecological services. Coordinators for women veterans at VA medical facilities are available to provide special assistance to women patients.

Readjustment Counseling.

Vet Centers provide counseling to Vietnam-era women and men who have difficulty adjusting to civilian life.

Disability Compensation.

Veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active service in line of duty during wartime or peacetime service and were discharged or separated under other than dishonorable conditions may be compensated for their service-connected injury or disease. Veterans who are found to be eligible for disability compensation are entitled to monthly payments. The amount of payment depends upon the degree of disability. In addition, a wide variety of benefits, including specially adapted autos and homes, are available to certain severely disabled veterans.

Pensions.

Veterans of wartime service may be eligible for pensions if permanently and totally disabled for reasons not traceable to service. Veterans 65 years of age or older and not working are considered permanently and totally disabled. However, pensions are awarded on the basis of need. Pension is not payable to those who



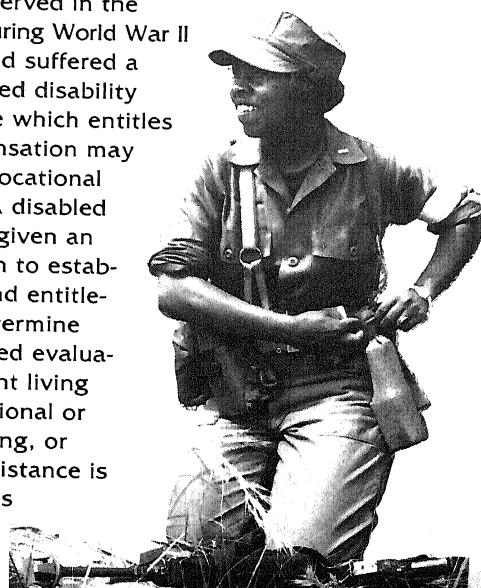
have estates that can provide adequate maintenance.

Education.

The VA administers basic programs for veterans and servicepersons seeking assistance for education or training. Veterans who are released from active duty after June 1, 1966, have eligibility for 10 years after their last discharge or release but not later than December 31, 1989, whichever is earlier. Spouses and children of deceased women veterans as well as men veterans also may be eligible for educational assistance.

Vocational Rehabilitation.

Veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II or thereafter and suffered a service-connected disability in active service which entitles them to compensation may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation. A disabled veteran will be given an initial evaluation to establish eligibility and entitlement and to determine whether extended evaluation, independent living services, educational or vocational training, or employment assistance is needed. Veterans



who are seriously disabled may receive services and assistance to improve their ability to live more independently in their community. After completion of training, the VA will assist the veteran to find and hold a suitable job.

Home Loans.

Veterans with sufficient active-duty service, women and men alike, may obtain VA-guaranteed loans to purchase or improve houses, manufactured homes and condominiums.

Death Benefits.

Veterans may be buried in a VA National Cemetery, along with spouses and minor children. Veterans, men and women, are eligible for a plot allowance and those receiving disability compensation or pension payments also are eligible for burial allowances. VA will also furnish a flag and a headstone or marker to mark the grave of a veteran buried in a national, state or private cemetery.

Employment.

There are various benefits available to veterans and their dependents which are not administered by the Veterans Administration. For more information, contact the Veterans' Employment Service of the Department of Labor.





How to obtain VA benefits:

Benefits are not automatically available. For specific eligibility information, contact the nearest VA Regional Office or VA Medical Center. There is a women's coordinator in each regional office and medical center to help you. Look for U.S. Government, Veterans Administration, in phone directories. Toll-free service is available in all 50 states.